## NEWS FROM WASHINGTON.

Important Correspondence with Foreign Governments.

The Case of the Burning of the Harvey Birch by the Washville Under Consideration.

Probable Postponement of the Tax Bill Till After the Fall Elections.

Debate in the House on the Contract Committee's Report.

Defence of the Secretary of the Navy and General Fremont.

Army Appointments Confirmed by the Senate,

&c.,

WASHINGTON, April 28, 1862. IMPORTANT CORRESPONDENCE RELATIVE TO REBELL VESSELS AT FOREIGN PORTS—THE CASE OF THE HARVEY BIRCH.

A large mass of correspondence has accumulated in relation to insurgent vessels at foreign ports, and par ticularly between the United States and Great Britain.

Minister Adams, by direction of Secretary Seward last November, addressed a note to Lord Russell on the subject of the outrages committed by the Nashville, she baving captured and destroyed the American merchant. man Harvey Birch by fire, and then sought protection at Southampton. The object of Mr. Adams was to request the British government to inquire into the circumstances of this extraordinary proceeding, and expressing the hope that the British government would adopt such mea sures as the case might seem to demand; first as to the authority possessed by this vessel to com so aggressive an act on the citizens o a friendly Power, and then to claim a refuge and recog nition in the harbors of Great Britain; and, secondly, in ease the nature of that authority be deemed sufficient at least in view of her Majesty's government, as to the purposes for which the ship is alleged to have come across the ocean, to wit.—The making of more effective preparations in the ports of Great Britain for carrying on a war against the people of a friendly nation. In the mer case he says the question will arise whether the vessel be or not subject to process of law, as a common disturber of the peace of the world; and in the second place, whether a recognized belligerent shall or shall not be permitted, with impunity, to violate the terms of her Majosty's proclamation permitting the fitting out in the ports of Great Britain of any armament intended to be used against a nation with which she is at

Mr. Seward, December 21, 1861, approves of all Mr. Adams' proceedings, and in the course of his despatch "We continue, however, to hope that this new and flagrant occurrence has arrested the serious attention of her Majesty's government, and that it will result in bringing about some revolution of the whole subject consistent with the great expectations of the United States, so often already expressed. The Navy Department will not neglect the interest of our commerce this new and distinct experience, whatever may be the difficulty or the cost.' Lord Russell had sent a note to Mr. Adams, November

23, presenting his compliments to Mr. Adams, and acquainting him that his letter should receive immediate attention. Lord Russell had already given directions that no infringement of the foreign enlistment act should be permitted in regard to the Nashville.

Subsequently Lord Russell wrote to Mr. Adams that the Nashville appeared to be a Confederate vessel of waher commander and officers having commissions in th so styled Confederate navy, &c. In these circumstances he adds, the act done by the Nashville cannot b considered an act voluntarily undertaken by individuals not vested with powers generally ac knowledged to be necessary to justify aggressive warfare. Nor does it at all approximate within the definition of piracy. All persons acting contrary to the Enlistment act shall be punished, if necessary; and if necessary, other measures will be adopted to maintain neutrality. It is the desire of her Majesty's government te maintain friendly relations.

Mr. Seward to Mr. Adams, January 23, speaks about our government being embarrassed by the attitude of the British government, and further communicates with our Minister upon that subject.

In a despatch to our Minister to France, Mr. Dayton, new regulation will be adopted by the British govern ment as will reassure the merchants and seamen who are so justly annoyed by the presence of pirates in European with Europe, we could only remonstrate with the British government against the shelter allowed to depredators pon our commerce, and send out such of our own ves seis as we could spare for its protection.

Secretary of Legation Perry, under date of January 4 last, accomints Mr. Soward of the Sumter just casting Cadiz. Mr. Seward, in reply, 31st January eays the President is favorably impressed with the promptness with which the Spanish government apply the principles of the royal proclamation in the case of th Sumter and the American citizens whom she carried into Cadiz as prisoners, namely-restoring them to the protection of our flag. He asks, why shall not Spain. emulous of a new, magnificent and glorious career, seize the pre-eminence of being the first of maritime Power, to retrace the hasty step of last June to close her ports against those who are exasperated against their own Government, because it will not lend itself to their own evil aggressive designs against Spain and their war

against human nature. Mr. Seward, in another despatch to Secretary Perry, February 24 last, says:-The President expects that th States which have, has we think, so unwisely recog nized the insurgents, will, in view of the events which have occurred here, indicating the decline of the insurrection reconsider their decisions, and cheerfully resome their former attitude towards the government and people of the United States. Representations in all material respects similar to these, will be made by us to other maritime and commercial Powers.

Mr. Seward, writing to Minister Webb, at Rio Janeiro.

November 13, speaks of the privateer Sumter having been admitted into the port of Maranham, and receiving time in calling attention to the subject, and inform his Ma jesty's government that the shelter and supply of pirates, mtoris, it the ports of Brazil, is deemed an up friendly act by this government, and to ask that such measures be taken with regard to the case as will make the Governor of Maranham sensible of his Majesty's dis pleasure, and prevent a recurrence of such injuries to the Third States hereafter.

Mr. Webb, in response to Mr. Seward, says .- The Fereign Office assumed he ground that no breach of neutrainty had been commissed, and fell back upon the absurdity first invented by as Governor of Maranham namely, that the Sumter is a man of war. Brazil, it appears, recognized in the Southers States the rights and duties of beiligerents, in conformit) with the laws of nations, and Mr. Webb is informed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs that he confounds the recognition of a fact and of the rights of beiligerents as the ecognition of independence and sovereignty in behalf of the terri-

sory in rebellion. general that this decision seems to him to be inconsis ent with the very friendly relations which have hereto fore existed between Brazil and the United States, and is therefore in a high degree unsatisfactory.

pondence, declares its friendship for the United States and fervently hopes the civil war will soon be brought to

Mr. Heward, to Minister Pike, Feb. 27 last, instructs him to lose no time in calling attention to the subject of Insurgent piratical American vessels seeking shelter is the ports of the Netherlands and her colonies. If you pannot, he says, obtain a decree excluding them altogether, it is thought the government will have no hesita good in restorion the restrictive policy which was adopted

under the representation of its foreign affairs by Baron

Mr. Seward adds, in conclusion:-This dome has been protracted long enough. It is the interest of humanity that it should be closed as speedily as possible. It would come to an end to-morrow if the European States should clearly announce that expectations of favor from

THE CULTIVATION OF THE SEA ISLANDS ON THE SOUTH CAROLINA COAST.

It is understood that the mission of Mr. Pierce to Port Royal, to look after the cotton crop, is a failure. It is believed that he has paid more attention to the nigger than to cotton. One statement is made indicating the way things are managed in that section: There was a large quantity of cotton seed on hand on the plantations, about which the agent neglected to ascertain anything Wanting seed, orders were sent to New York for a sup ply, with bundreds of busnels within a stone's throw of the place. Other instances of want of capacity, or something of that sort, are told, which has caused this harge to be made. It is decided that hereafter the care of these plantations shall be taken from the Treasury Department and given to the War Department. It is not doubted that Mr. Stanton's practical mode of doing business will soon get this matter arranged, and that we shall have no more trouble there. It seems that mis-sionary labors conflict with the practical labors of the day. Sentiment don't keep the run of cotton seed. ARRIVAL OF PRIZES FROM THE RAPPAHANNOCK

RIVER. The steamer Jacob Bell has arrived at the Navy Yard, towing up five of the schooners lately captured by our flotilla in the Rappahannock. They consist of the following .- The Lookout, of Baltimore, about seventy-five tons with three thousand bushels of corn which is put up in bags marked "Confederate States," and the remainder marked with the name of the captain; the Sarah Ann, of Newbern, North Carolina, with sixteen hundred bushels of corn; the Sidney A. Jones, of Baltimore, unladen; the Falcon, of Tappahannock, unladen; and the Monterey, of Tappahannock, with the cargo of a pungy which had been cut adrift, consisting of oil, saltpetre, bone dust, dry goods, &c. The Jacob Bell has the marks of a shot or two, which she received from some of the rebel pickets on her trip to Fredericksburg.

THE RADICALS IN CONGRESS NEARLY USED UP. The struggle between the conservative and radical elements in Congress is conceded to promise now the entire defeat of the radicals. The conservatives are much encouraged, and many of those who have hitherto been lassed among the ultras are beginning to fall away from their radical associations. The action of the conservatives in the New York Legislature, in preparing for the approaching canvass and making common cause in support of the efforts of the administration to suppress the rebellion, has produced a marked effect. It gives heart to the loyalists of the border States, and assures them that the masses are with the constitutional party, and as bitterly opposed to the insane radicalism of the North as the ellish treason of the South. The same spirit is stated to be active in the Northwestern States, and finds ut terance through the members of Congress, who are con stantly advised by their constituents. Intellignce from Ilfinois leaves little room for doubt that Owen Lovejoy will be succeeded by a conservative, notwithstanding the immense majority by which he carried his distric in 1860, when his professed sentiments were identical with those of the President. Mr. Arnotd has also been d that the welfare and existence of the govern ment of white men is paramount to the social condition of our million of blacks; that the disease by which the government is attacked is vital and requires skilful reatment, promptly applied, while the blacks have hronic affection which can only be overcome gradually and by the utmost care both in the remedies employed and their application. Gen. Logan will soon be succeeded by a regular Union democrat, and it is believed that few any of the extreme radicals of the Lovejoy, Hickman and Stevens school, in the present House, can be re Their system, applied to surgery, wou amputate the head of the patient to prolong his life. On the other hand, such men as Speaker Pennsylvania; Mr. Fenton, of New York; Mr. Frain, of Massachusetts, and others who have been and are strong Chicago platform men, opposed to the exten ion of slavery into the Territories, and also to Congres sional interference with it in the States, warmly ap prove of the New York constitutional Union mover and encourage its extension into other States.

THE TAX BILL AND THE POLITICIANS. The signs of a speedy passage of the Tax bill are not very promising to-day. Indeed, some observers of politicians and political movements predict that it will not be passed at all until after the next fall elections. Western men say that no party, however strong, could sustain the responsibility of such taxation in the West, where large portions of the domain are now taxed to death at home, and they desire some substitute to be devised in order to save the party, for he present, at least. On the other hand, the Eastern members declare that no political party could survive after refusing to pass the bill, as the capitalists of the great commercial cities must have some basis furnished or the credit of the country. The President makers are s much puzzled as the financiers in regard to this ndispensible measure, and it would not be surprising I much unnecessary delay should be caused by me

coliticians. THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON CONFISCATION. between conservatism and radicalism. Mr. Olin, of New fork, having declined to serve, Mr. Sedgwick will be added. It was considered, when Mr. Olin was excused, hat three radicals and three conservatives were left. Mr. Sedgwick is at most a mild republican, and the committee will hardly report an extreme measure.

MILITARY APPOINTMENTS CONFIRMED BY THE SE-NATE. The Senate, in executive session to-day, confirmed a arge number of military nominations, including the folowing named to be Brigadier Generals of volunteers:-Colonel Max Weber, of New York.

George S. Greene, of the Sixtleth New York regime Colonel John C. Caldwell, of the Eleventh Maine regi-

Captain Traman Seymour, of the Fifth artillery Colonel Isaac P. Rodman, of the Fourth Rhode Islan

Henry Bablew, of Pennsylvania. Paymaster Henry Prince, of the United States Army. Captain Quincy A. Gillmore, of the Corps of Engineers Major Absolom Baird, Assistant Inspector General.

George D. Bayard, First regiment Pennsylvania ca Colonel Thomas B. Crittenden, of a regiment of Illin

Coloneis Alvin P. Hovey, Wm. P. Benton, Jeremiah C.

fullivan, James C. Veatch and Pleasant A. Hacklemanthe last four of Indiana.

Brigade Sergeant of Volunteers.

THE CONFIRMATION OF GENERAL FITZJOHN PORTER'S The Senate, in executive session to-day, made a final disposition of the confirmation of Brigadier General Fitzohn Porter. His nomination was confirmed several

weeks ago; but there was something in the fence, and a

seconsideration was had. To-day the vote was concluive in his favor. NAVAL ORDERS AND APPOINTMENTS. The following orders and appointments have been made at the Navy Department:-

ACTING MASTERS APPOINTED. Porter, ordered to Port Royal; Geo. A. Smith, of New York, ordered to the New York yard.

THE CASE OF GENERAL STONE. A strong appeal has been made by the friends of Gen one to procure his release from arrest and permission is to participate in the expected fight at Yorktown They admit that it is altogether improper that his trial should be ordered immediately under existing circumstances, as the exigencies of the service will not allow the detail of officers of the requisite rank from duty in the field to attend a court martial. They ask, however that General Stone should in the meantime be released be assigned by General McClellan, even that of a privat the ranks, to prove his freedom from any treason, and his willingness to give his life if necessary in the maintenance of the Union and the constitution against the repellion of traitors. The President regrets that he is unable to grant uis request, and refers the applicants to the Secretary of

There remains now no count that certain Senators have been using the power of their office to minister to private purposes as well as to partisan ends. Instances are cited where the confirmation or rejection of pominess for exalted military positions has been made contingent upon their truckling to these men. Among these Senators are hose who were last in the field, and most urgent for a rapid and reckipes silvance to Hishmone. There are in-

stances cited where one of these Senators has openly ild depend upon the retraction of personalitie It is unfortunate applied to him. untry at this crises that the public service should be deprived of the usefulness of good officers to gratify the malice or frenzy of mere politicians, who feat to face the enemies of their country and use their posi-tions only to disparage brave and patrictic men who are willing to shed their blood or give their lives for the do fence of the Union

ACCURACY OF THE HERALD'S REPORT OF THE BAT THE OF PITTSBURG LANDING.

A private letter has been received in this city from the West, in which the writer, a gentleman with exten sive means of information, asserts that the first report of the battle at Pittsburg Landing, as telegraphed to the HERALD by its correspondent, was very nearly correct and that our actual loss was eighteen to twenty thou sand. It is also stated that General Price has brough thirty thousand men to reinforce Beauregard from Ark

Mr. Arnold, from the Committee on Roads and Canals has reported in favor of the bill for the enlargement of the Illinois and Michigan Canal. The report states that the work has been more than half completed by the State of Illinois having expended thereon over \$6,000, 000. The canal has been in operation since 1848, and will be greatly increased by the enlargement of the Illi-nois river as proposed. The State of Illinois offers this canal and its revenues to the United States, en condition that Congress will provide the means of enlarging it so as to pass gunboats from the lakes to the Mis This will place us upon an equality with Great Britain that Power being able by her canals to pass war vessel rom the ocean to the lakes. The report, in view of the fact that by treaty the United States is prohibited from building or maintaining armed vessels on the lakes, urgethe necessity and importance of the immediate enlarge ment of this canal, by which the gunboat fleet on the Mississippi could be passed through to the lakes. Had this medium of communication been open at the be ging of the rebellion the 1,200 vessels and 15,000 sailors now shut up on the lakes would have been at the disposal of the government. The saving to the Treasury during the past year would have been rathe more than the cost of the contemplated work. The com-mittee believe its income will more than pay the interest on its cost, and ultimately pay the entire investment.

THE RAILROADS AND THE MAILS. Mr. Colfax, from the Postal Committee, reported a bill that all railroads shall take the United States mails when required to do so by the Postmaster General, at a fair compensation, under a penalty of five thousand dol lars for refusing.

This bill is deemed necessary to prevent any single corporation or combination of railroad companies from breaking up the schedule of the Postal Department or extorting exorbitant prices for mail transportation

POST OFFICES REOPENED IN TENNESSEE. The following post offices in Tennessee have been restablished:-Nashville, Gallatin, Sumner county, She byville, Bedford county; Lebauon, Wilson county; Savannah, Hardin county; Franklin, Williamson county. RESTORATION OF THE HARPER'S PERRY ARMORY.

An attempt is being made to resuscitate the Harper Ferry Armory. The Sccretary of War has been requested to inquire into the condition of the government works there, the authority by which they were destroyed the amount necessary to repair the damages done there and the expediency of restoring the armory to be used as heretofore. It is probable that Secretary Stanton's report will put at rest the subject of rebuilding this

SLAVE STATISTICS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA The Secretary of the Interior, in transmitting to the enate to-day a list of slaves, and persons slaves, in the District of Columbia, makes the fol owing suggestions:-"As this record, after the lapse of twenty months, may not present a correct statement of the present or very recent relations of the free popula tion to that of the slave, and as it exposes the private affairs of individuals, to publish which would be inconsistent with the authorized representations of the cen takers, I would respectfully suggest the inquiry whether it would be proper to print it for publication.

ADULTERATED LIQUORS. Mr. Pomeroy, of Kansas, introduced in the Senate to day a stringent bill to prevent the importation of adul erated liquors. It provides that all spirituous and nalt liquors, wines, cordials, &c., shall be tested by sworn examiners before they pass through the Custom House, and if found impure shall be forfeited and destroyed. Every package of liquors shall bear plainly the name of the manufacturer or be seized and forfeited. The owner or consiguee of any liquors conlemned may cause, at his own expense, an analysis to be made by an analytic chemist, and if the sworn report of such claimant shall not sustain the examiner's report the liquors may pass the Custom House. If liquors are con demned the owner or assignee may re-export them within six months, on executing a bond that he will not sell them in the United States.

THE HORSE RAILROAD QUESTION. The horse railroad contest has been transferred from the halls of Congress to the chambers of the City Council The various parties whose antagonistic efforts have prevented the passage of any bill authorizing the construcbut, as indicated in this correspondence mouths as the only practicable means of get ting such a road, the Corporation of Washington has made a bargain with the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, by which the latter transfers to the Corners tion all its rights, under existing laws, to construct horse railroads through Pennsylvania avenue and other streets for the privilege to be accorded by the Corporation to the Railroad Company of making a rail connection steam with the river and another with Georgetown, by come street other than Pennsylvania avenue. If the lobby gang that have so long prevented this improvement by their mutual struggles do not follow it into the City Council, this great want may soon be supplied. BRITISH MEDIATION IN THE AFFAIRS OF ECUADOR

AND PERU. By despatches recently received at the Consulate Gene ral of Ecuador here, it is stated that the ministers of her Britannic Majesty at Quito and Lima, in pursuance of in structions from their government, have severally ter dered its good offices as mediator in the amicable settle. ment of the difficulties between Peru and Ecuador, which have been cordially accepted, and peaceable relations are now happily re-established between those countries.

THE PILOT LAWS IN OREGON. Mr. Nesmith, of Oregon, presented a petition in the Senate from the Board of Pilot Commissioners of Oregon, praying for an act declaring that seagoing ships, though pavigated with steam and carrying pilots, under the act of 1852, shall not by any construction of that act be exempted from the operation of the State laws respecting

barbor pilotage.

The proposition of the military committees to provide not only for the decent and careful burial of our soldiers who may die in this District, but to allot to each State a space sufficient for the temporary or permanent inter-ment of its citizeus, has excited a very deep interest, and commanded the warmest approbations of the Pres dent, Cabinet and Congress, this being almost the only national capital without a national cemetery for heroes soldiers and citizens. The gentleman to whom the coun try is more indebted for the conception and maturing of the plan than to any other person perhaps, is Colone

PROCEEDINGS OF CONGRESS. THIRTY-SEVENTH CONGRESS.

Senate.

SLAVE STATISTICS.

The PRESIDENT pro tem. presented a communication from the Secretary of the Interior concerning the number and ages of the slaves, &c., in the District of Co.

The Secretary said the statistics were compiled some twenty months ago, and were perhaps not available

The communication was referred to the Committee or the District of Columbia. THE NEWSPACERS AND THE MAILS.

Mr. Collamer, (rep.) of Vi., presented a petition from citizens of Vermont, asking that certain newspapers have the same privileges as other newspapers. EMANCIPATION PETITIONS.

Mass. , presented potitions in favor of smaccipe

tohaceo manufacturers, asking a reduction of the pro-

Mr. Wilson, (rep.) of Mass., from the Military Com-nittee, reported back the bill for the organization of the ignal Department, and moved its indefinite postpone-nent. Postponed.

ment. Postponed.

Mr. Dixon, (rep.) of Coun., offered a resolution that the Committee on Naval Affairs be instructed to inquire into the propriety of providing by law for the appointment of acting midshipmen at the Naval Academy from the District of Columbia. Adopted.

the District of Commbia. Adopted.

THE HAUDRE'S PERMY ARMORY.

Mr. WILSON, (rep.) of Mass., offered a resolution that
the Secretary of War be requested to inquire into the
condition of the Harper's Ferry armory, what damage
has been done to it, what is the value of the property of
the United States there now, and what amount is neces-

has been done to it, what is the value of the property of the United States there now, and what amount is necessary, and whether it is expedient to restore the armory and re-employ the workmen. Adopted.

PUNNEMBERT FOR ADDITERATING LIQUORS.

Mr. POMEROY, (rep.) of Kansas, introduced a bill to prevent the importation of adulterated liquors by previding a punishment therefor.

SLAVES AT CAMP CHASE, OHIO.

On motion of Mr. Wilson, (rep.) of Mass., the resolutions of the Ohio Legislature in regard to rebels keeping their slaves at Camp Chase were taken up.

Mr. Suseman, (rep.) of Ohio, had read a letter from a member of the Legislature concerning the rebel prisoners being allowed to go about the city of Columbus, lounge at the hotels, and abuse the government with perfect liberty; also an article in the Cincinnati Commercial to the same effect; also another article in the Cincinnati Gazelle showing that Gov. Tod was taking measures to have the negroes at Camp Chase liberated and the robel prisoners removed to proper quarters. moved to proper quarters.

The resolutions were referred to the Military Commit-

On motion of Mr. TREMBULL, (rep.) of Ill., the bill for the more convenient enforcement of the laws, for so-curity to keep the peace and good behavior, was taken up. After some discussion the bill was passed, by year 35, nays 3.

mays 3.

THE TAX BILL.

Mr. Wade, (rep.) of Ohio, presented several petitions asking for a uniform system of taxatics according to the population of a State, and protesting against the passage of the Tax bill from the House.

On motion of Mr. King (rep.) of N. Y., the Senate then went into executive session.

Upon the reopening of the doors the Senate adjourned

WASHINGTON, April 28, 1862.
THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE CONSISCATION OF RESERVE The Sprayer announced the following as the special

mmittee on the confiscation of rebel property :-Messrs. Olin, of New York; Eliot, of Massachusetts; Neet, of Missouri; Hutchins, of Ohio; Mallory, of Ken-tucky; Beaman, of Michigan, and Cobb, of New Jersey Mr. Olin, (rep.) of N.Y., remarked that he had here tofore asked to be excused from serving on the commit-tee, and he repeated the reasons for the request, which was now complied with.

OFFICIAL REPORTS OF THE BATTLE OF SHILOR On motion of Mr. McPhesson, (rep.) of Pa., it was re-solved that the Secretary of War transmit to the House copies of the reports of commanders of regiments, brigades and divisions engaged in the battle of Shiloh

remeases.

RESOCKITION OF HAYTI AND LIBERIA.
On motion of Mr. GOOCH, (rep.) of Mass., the Senate bill for the recognition of Hayti and Laberia was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affaire.

Alleged bisloyal Judge in vincinia.
On motion of Mr. Potter, (rep.) of Wis., the Secretary of War was requested to inform the House whether Judge Fetts, who sent a letter to the rebei Legislature at Richmend, declaring his loyalty to that cause, continues to hold his court for Accuraciand Northamoton counties. Virginia, with the Richmedge and consent of the federal military commandant of that district.

FUNISHEART OF FRANDS ON THE GOVERNAMENT.
On motion of Mr. Calera, (rep.) of ind., it was resolved that the Judiciary Committee be instructed to inquire into the expediency of reporting a bill for punishing all contractors guilty of defrauding the government, with penalties similar to these for grand larceny.

THE CANADIAN RECIPEORTY TREATY.

THE CANADIAN RECURSORITY TREATY.

Mr. SPAULDING, (rep.) of N. Y., introduced a joint resolution, which was referred to the Committee on Com-

SILVENDESS, (CEP.) IN. 1., included a joint resolution, which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, authorizing the appointment of commissioners to negotiate concerning the Reciprocity treaty, and authorizing the President to give the necessary notice for terminating the present unfair treaty.

POREMON OFFICERS INVIEW TO JOIN THE FEDERAL ARMY.

Mr. RICHARDSON, (Opp.), of IIII, asked, but failed to obtain, leave to Introduce a resolution sotting forth that Secretary Seward, in July, 1861, wrote to a certain Italian officer, saying that if he should come to our shores our government would take pleasure in assigning him an honorable military position. The officer, under this assurance, at great expense, came hither, and has been waiting four months without receiving any official recognition. The resolution concludes by requesting the second to such the standard of the same of all officers who have been so invited, traction with the date of the same, the disposition of such officers, and the expense the government has thereby in-, and the expense the government has thereby

PUNISHMENT OF POLYGAMY. Mr. ASHEY, (rep.) of Chie, reported back from the Committee on Territories the bilt to prevent and points the practice of polygamy, and to annul certain acts of the Legislature of the Territory of Utah establishing the

wame.

Mr. Moeren, (rep.) of Vt., said this bill was the same introduced by him two years ago, with the exception of the omission of its applicability to the District of Johannia.

DEPARE ON THE REPORT OF THE CONTRACT INVESTIGATING COMMITTE—CEPENCE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY.

The House resumed the consideration of the report on government contracts. The first resolution reported by them was postponed for two weeks. It is as follows:— That the Secretary of the Treasury's requested to decline making any further payment to the parties interested in the stemmont Cutaline, on account of the charter of said vessel by the United States on the 25th of April, 1861.

The next resolution in the series was then taken up. It is as follows:—

That the Sourchary of the Treasury be requested to adjust the claim of the government for the five thousand Hall car-bines, purchased through Simon Stevens, Eso, by deneral Join C. Frament, on the 6th day of August 1831, and after-wards delivered at the United States Arsenta, at the city of St. Louis, on the basts of a sale of such arms to the govern-ment for 812 20 each, rejecting all oters demands against

That nothing has occurred to lessen our confidence in the onesty, integrity and patriotism of Major General Fre-

Mr. Washburane, (rep.) of ill., raised the point of order that the substitute was not germain. Mr. Streens maintained that the original resolution im-posed censure on General Fremont. The Spraker maintained Mr. Washburne's point of

Mr. Streens maintained that the original resolution imposed censure on General Frement.

The Straers maintained Mr. Washburno's point of order.

Mr. Strowner, (rep.) of N. Y., reviewed the report of the committee, which censures the Secilary of the Navy for em, boying Morgan to purchase a in genumber of the government. He said the old, rotten, red tapo system could not be sustained for a moment. The education, profession and habits of life of naval officers do not qualify them for such duties. The department, at the commencement of the murchases, employed an officer of age and skill in the profession, whose honesty and integrity no one would doubt. He referred to Commodore Breese, who was as incompetent as a child respecting the purchase of vessels, as experience had shown. He gave several instances to show that, notwithstanding the responsibility of naval officers, they do not save the government from imposition and fraud. In the course of his remarks he said that 150 vessels had been purchased by Mr. Morgan.

While other vessels had been found inefficient, not one of those purchased by Mr. Morgan in the mode he had directed, had failed to perform what was expected, and this was apart from the economy involved in the transaction. He (Mr. Sedgwick) believed that the Select Committee would do the Secretary of the Navy the justice to say that there was nothing to show any want of integrity or the least appearance of dishonesty on his part in these purchases. The agent employed by the Secretary of the Navy (Mr. Morgan) saved the government over \$300,000, an amount less than was at first asked for the vessels. If Mr. Morgan had yielded to the amounts asked he would have put 20,000 in his pocket; but he nonesty performed his duty in the premises. As a general rule, voluntary agents will cheat you out of interest and principal too, and many of those who come out of this war will have a long and fine fleece adhering to them. He believed in hiring competent men and paying them reasonable component of the fleet of the s

Department.

In his closing remarks, referring to the action of the Mass., presented petrions in favor of smaceipating the Navy Department. Mr. Secondres said —An appropriate the serior, and in advance of the serior of

tee, without any interference on their part, that appropriation was hung up for two months in the Senate, while these vessels should have been preparing for service. The interests of the coverament were thus jeopardized, because the national legislature would not promptly give to the department the means of putting these vessels afloat. If the contracts for building these vessels afloat. If the contracts for building these vessels afloat. If the contracts for building these iron gumbeaus could have been made at the time the House voted the appropriation of ten millions, the department, instead of having one iron gumboat, would have had twenty to take care of the Merrimac, or any other vessel that could have been put afloat by the Southern confederacy; and before this day we would have had every city on the whole Scuthern coast in our possession. It is an unfortunate thing for the country that the nepartment had not the means to build these iron vessels, and have them affort at the time they were wanted. It is very easy to cry out against the department for want of promptness. It is very easy to get up a cry of fraud against the department in the man to the promptness of the whole scuthern cases the department of the want of promptness. It is very easy to get up a cry of fraud against the department of the want of promptness. in our possession. It is an unfortunate thing for the country that the nepartment had not the means to build these iron vessels, and have them afford at the time they were wanted. It is very easy to cry out against the department for want of promptness. It is very easy to get up a cry of fraud against the department. It makes the people, through the newspapers, cry out, and inquire who it is that has made such terrible denunciations in this House of fraudulent contracts. I would say, in relation to all this matter, that I will vote, and desire to vote, in support of the resolution offered this morning by Mr. Colfax, for I desire to see brought forward a Dill which shall punish fraud on any department of the government as a crime—a bill which will make the penalty so severe and so certain that no man, in cro out of oilice, who engages in a fraudulent transaction, shall escaye the responsibility of his acts. I put no shield before any victim who is justify amenable to punishment or consure. If the Secretary of the Navy has been guilty of any base, secret, fraudulent transaction with anybody, with either a relative or a stranger, let the axe fail. I do not stand here as his shield or his protector. But if he has managed the affairs of his department with skill, with activity, with industry—if he has brought about him, in the administration of the Navy Department, mon whose practical knowledge, whose energy, whose devotion to the service—such men as be unquestionably has its his assistant; such men as he has as his counsellors, advisers and assistants; and if, also, the affairs of the department have been managed with integrity and honesty, do not indulge in this criticism, do not attempt to loque him in the estimation of the Country by any unjust censure of his conduct and his motives. The head of that department has produced an administration of the Navy Department, where it sing has been unfuried to the breeze, but it is now thundering at the gains the very georous contest of the war, and is now levying its cont is opening the channels of commerce—it is doing whole duty to the country. I ask that you shall cripple it by declaring that it incks the confidence of House of Representatives. If the department has m

is opening the channels of commerce—it is doing its whole duty to the country. I ask that you shall not cripple it by declaring that it lacks the confidence of the House of Representatives. If the department has made a mistake, you have corrected they legislation. If there was a mistake is not limiting the commission gaid to an agent, you have corrected that by legislation. You must recollect the circumstances of the country when that transaction took place. You must extend to your public servants the justice, not to say the charity, which you would oxtend to any of your agents or employes in public life. I ask this House to pause before it passes a vote which shall imply a censure on the administration of the Navy Department—a department which, in its conduct throughout the whole war, has been worthy of the praise, instead of the censure of this House.

Mr. Sieverss said the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. Dawes) on a former occasion informed the House that he (Mr. Dawes) had nottlied him (Mr. Stevens) ho was about to call up this report; but that, notwithstanding, he (Mr. Stevens) had expected that the gentleman (Mr. Dawes) would have, as requested, made the further remark that he could not be present here on that day for the reason that he had an appointment with strangers about leaving Washington. The gentleman from Indiana (Mr. Colfax), however, supplied this deficiency, and, therefore, no harm was done. He (Mr. Stevens) would make good his charge. The committee have not conducted them with a copy of the evidence against them, and when requested to issue as uppermant hey had omitted to do so.

Mr. Fixvon, (rep.) of N. Y. (interrupting.) said—With a full knowledge of the investigations at York, Harrisburg and Washington, the committee had scrupplously pursued a course contrary to what the gentleman had condemned.

Mr. Sievens, responding, said the documents did not show it.

Mr. Sievens, responding, said the documents did no

show it.

Mr. Davis, (rep.) of Pa., in explanation, said the committee had sent word to General Frement to state his own time when it would appear agreeable to him to appear before them.

Mr. Shanks, (rep.) of Ind., stated that no notice had been given to General Frement and no testimony furnished.

Mr. Shevess said that such was the course generally of the committee. In order to consure ex-Secretary Came.

the committee. In order to censure ex-Secretary Came ron it was necessary to impeach the character of two of his agents, Governor Morgan and Alexander Cummings.

ron it was necessary to impeach the character or two of his agents, Governor Morgan and Alexander Cummings. Centrary' to what the committee charged, Alexander Cummings lad not a dollar in his hands. They accused him of retaining \$140,000 in his possession, when it was expressly stated by him in his note that the amount was in the hands of Messrs. Dix, Batchford and Opdyke, where it was originally placed by the Secretary of the Treasury. The report, as to Cummings, was founded on an assumed mistake of the printer, which Mr Stevens sail was founded on a falsehood. This was fraudulent misrepresentation. Fraudulent misrepresentation No. 1, No. 2, is the case of the agent Zacchi. The committee had that such a man made a large contract for horses, but he failed to appear, and they censure it as a fraudulent transaction, made under General Fremont, and say that the newspapers say that this Zacchi was in General Fremont's staff; but all this turns out not to be true, and the Zacchi on the staff never knew anything about the horse contracts.

orse contracts.

Mr. Washburne asked where he got his information?

Mr. Stavens said from an afficiavit of the real hors

Mr. Stavens said from an affidavit of the real horse contractors.

Mr. Wa-merene said he knew nothing about the case.

Mr. Stavens supposed not. That was like a good many other things in the report of the committee. They ought to have known that. That was what he complained of. Case No. 3 was the contract of one Simon Stevens for carbines. Simon Stevens was in no way a relative of his, but he was a constituent of his, and of as high character as any man in the House. He never heard simon Stevens attacked before the speech of the gentleman from Massachusetts. The committee infer and insinuate that this was a purchase by General Fremont through Mr. Stevens, when they have direct evidence aractly to the opposite. This was not the way in which characters should be destroyed by committees of this House. The committee complain that they are charged with lying. He had proved that their report was false and fraudulent, and he now proposed to call living witnesses. He read a letter of General Fremont's to the Com-

mittee on the conduct of the var, as not things in the report were talse.

Mr. Dawis, (rep.) of Mass., said that General Fremon never offered any testimony before that committee.

Mr. Julian, (rep.) of Ind., said that General Fremon offered a list of names by which he proposed to prove the

Mr. JULIAN, (rep.) of Ind., said that General Fremont offered a list of names by which he proposed to prove the statements.

Mr. WASHUURE said the Committee on Contracts did not refuse to receive testimony or suppress any testimony, and such assertion is faise. He wanted to know how General Fremont's testimony got out?

Mr. Gooch, (rep.) of Mass., said he supposed General Fremont had a copy.

Mr. WASHUURE wanted to know if that was the way the committee did business?

Mr. Coleax wanted to know how the abstract of the proceedings of the Committee on Contracts against General Fremont went all over the country?

Mr. WASHUURE denied that any such abstract went from the committee.

Mr. Strukes said it was probably all a mistake of the

Mr. Srevens said it was probably all a mistake of the printer, as in the committee's report. The gentleman from Massachusetts criticized his conduct in regard to Mr. Cameron. He, with some of his colleagues, had protested against his appointment, though the protest was not of much avail. Afterwards Mr. Cameron took a different course from what he expected, and, among other things, wrote these remarkable words to General Sherman;—"You will assure all persons held to involuntary labor, who may be received into the service of the government, that they will, under no circumstances, again be reduced to their former condition, unless they freely choose to return." But all know how his report was emassulated. He (Mr. Stevens) felt proud of the man he previously opposed, and declared he would support him. Mr. Cameron had out his acquaintance, but afterwards renewed it. He determined to support Mr. Cameron so long as he supported the country, and he withdrew his protest.

When he had concluded the House adjourned. ans said it was probably all a mistake of the

Police Intelligence.

SUNDAY LIQUOR DEALERS.—The Fifth ward police were very energetic on Sunday in suppressing the rum traffic, and the consequence was not a drink could be had for love or money. In the Ninth, Fifteenth, Sixteenth and Twenty much precincts the authorities were equally stringent but a large number of arrests were made before the police could enforce the law. No less than fifteen cases were heard before Justice Quackenbush yesterday, in every one of which the dealers were required to give ball to answer. Already 132 violations of the Sanday law have been brought before this magistrate. In fully seven eights of the cases the defendants have been held to ball or imprisoned.

Fire in Kewanee, III.

KEWANE, III., April 28, 1862.

A fire yesterday destroyed six stores; loss \$12,000—juned for \$6,000.

NEWS FROM FORTRESS MONROE.

GREAT EXCITEMENT AT NORFOLK. Fears of an Attack from Gen.

Burnside Expected Reappearance of the Merrimac,

> ac., FORTRESS MORROR, April 27, 1862. A boat containing four black men and one white max:

arrived here this morning from Portsmouth. They repor.

that the Merrimac will come out soon.

But few troops were at Norfolk or in the vicinity o It was rumored that Commodore Tatnall had been renoved from the command of the Merrimac.

A despatch in yesterday's Richmond papers, received by a flag of truce, dated Mobile, Friday, says that the Union gunboats passed Forts Jackson and St. Philip at four o'clock on Thursday morning, and at one o'clock the same afternoon were before New Orleans.

A rumor was current in Norfolk last night that New Orleans had surrendered. I send extracts from the Richmond Enquirer of the

26th, in which the appearance of the Union gunboats before the city is announced.

The contrabands inform me that the most intense excitement exists around Norfolk, and great fear is felt of an attack by Burnzide. Nearly all of the troops have been sent from Norfolk, Portsmouth and Suffolk to South Mill, to report any advance that Burnside might make.

The current rumor around Norfolk was that the Merrimac would come out to-morrow, and try to pass up York river, to destroy our shipping now there. state that steel wedges have been prepared, with a view f boarding the Monitor and tightening her turret so that it cannot revolve, and for catting loose her sheathing. Her prow or cutter is now twelve feet long, made of wrought iron, and steel-pointed. The citize dently becoming very uneasy, and many are leaving for more secure localities. It seems to be generally con-ceded by every one, they say, that New Orleans had:

## NEWS FROM GENERAL BANKS' CORPS.

Skirmish with Ashby's Rebel Cavalry-Position of the Enemy's Forces, &c.

Yesterday afternoon the pickets of Coionel Donnelly's HARRISONBURG, April 27, 1862. prigade, stationed eight miles hence on the Gordonsville oad, were attacked by a large force of Ashby's rear guard and driven back. One man, named Isaac Zelly, of the Forty-sixth Pennsylvania regiment, was killed and three others wounded. The reserve of the Forty-sixth and a section of Hampton's battery then advanced and repulsed the rebels. They retreated to a wood, where several of our shells burst in their very midst, and a wagon was seen gathering up and carrying off their dead and wounded.

town and Donnelly's encampment, and the impossibility of forwarding him supplies, Donnelly has been ordered to take up a new position nearer the town, until the roads get in a better condition. Jackson's forces are mainly encamped near the east

bank of the Shenandoah. The bridge over the river is strongly picketed by him, and is underlaid with inflamnable material, ready to be ignited on the approach of our troops. Captain Bowen, of the Twenty-eighth New York regiment, is performing the duty of Provost Marshai in the town. The orderly deportment of our troops is convinc-

guilty of gross misrepresentation and duplicity towards All the churches whose pastors are not in the secession army open to-day, and the town wears the appearance of a Northern country Sabbath.

ing proof to the population that our object is but a mission of peace, and that the secession leaders have been

## IMPORTANT FROM THE SOUTHWEST.

General Halleck's Army Still Advance ing-The Pickets of the Hostile Armies Only Half a Mile Apart-Continued Bombardment of Fort Wright-Island No. Ten Put in a State of Defence-Interesting Accounts from Memphis-Developement of Union Feeling Among

the People, &c., &c. Care, April 28, 1862. The steamer Isabella, from Pittsburg Landing, has

The army is still gradually advancing, but every thing was quiet.

A reconnoisance on Friday discovered that the enemy were strongly posted at Pea Ridge, three miles beyond our line of pickets, but we did not advance to attack

There is news from Fort Pillow. The mortars still fire

casionally. Refugees from Memphis report a strong Union feeling existing there, and that the majority of the people are

all the cotton, sugar and molasses will be destroyed. Van Dorn, Price and Jeff. Thompson were at Memphis, with about six thousand miserably clad troops. They re

main there to drive the people into submission. As the conscription act is being enforced hundreds o, the inhabitants are loaving daily to avoid impressme Most of the twelve months men, whose term of service

is about to expire, refuse to enlist under any circum stances, and are descriing in large numbers. Pittsburg advices of Senday night say that the roads are improving, and preparations for the coming battle

are progressing steadily. The pickets of the two are now only half a mile apart. There is much sickness among our troops, the result of fatigue and exposure, and unhealthy climate.

Refugees report that General Villipigne is still in com mand at Fort Wright and has a force of six or eight taken there. A large number of negroes are constantly at work strengthening the fortifications. There is a report, which is deemed reliable, that the

rebel gunboat fleet is coming up the river to attack our sion of the Mississippi. On the reception of this report, a steam tug was despatched to Island No. 10, having on board gunners sufficient to man the batteries the Refugees report that a despotic censorship is enforced

in all parts of the Southwest, and public prints dared to utter nothing derogatory to the rebellion. They say that the Union men there are as firm and loyal as ever, and rejoicing at the near approach of the federal army.
Union clubs meet nightly at Memphis, and are holding

city of the South. General Prenties and the other Union prisoners who had been at Memphis, received marked attention from Union people. He was taken to Tuscaloosa. Fort Harris, just above Memphis, has been overflowed

by a crevasse, and much damage caused to the surrou ing country.

ago Tribune's Cairo despatch save that reher cavalry had appeared in considerable force on the river, wenty miles below Savannah, and a gunboat had been sent down the river to watch their movements. All the see river boats now carry brass pieces on their hows, and each side is also armed, with alguard on the hurricane deck, to return any fire from guirilla bands.

Wounded from Pittsburg Landing. PHTSBURG, Pa., April 27, 1862. The steamers Marengo and Hartman, sent from this city to Pittsburg Landing, returned to-day with seventy

wounded, who were placed in the Marine Hospital. The boats started with nearly 500, all of whom were left at points on the river near their homes. Among the wound

The Prize Cases,

The United States, de., st. the cargo of the schooner Joseph.

N. Toone.—Secree, on motion, allowing the claimant, deed
Maris Avendins, to forthwith file his claim to the cargo
captured; omitting from his claim, as mapprepriate, the
third clause, the same being objected to by the United
States Phitrict Attorney.

The United States, de., vs. the schooner Joseph N. Toone
and her cargo.—Ordered, that libeliants have leave to
amond libel filed in this cause, as proposed in the noise
to the proctor of the claimant, and that claimant be permitted to amend his claim, now on file, according to the
suggestions shaped in the affidavit of his advocate, or, at
his election, file by Fuesday next answ claim to the libel,
if so amended as above permitted.

Charles Gayler and obers us, the schooner Scrah D.
Sparks.—Libel claimingse vita costs.